WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

NEWS

Winchester residents launch local news podcast

February 25, 2026 . 3:55 PM — 1 min read

Winchester Beat offers weekly roundup of news and events. COURTESY PHOTO/WINCHESTER BEAT

The following was submitted by Winchester Beat:

Winchester residents Jennifer Haefeli and Tara Hughes have lau
local news podcast called Winchester Beat. The short format sho

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roundup of local news and events, including many stories from Winchester News.

The show currently focuses on issues related to town government, the town budget, the schools, development projects, and community events. Episodes generally last less than 10 minutes with the aim of keeping it short so people will tune in.

“The idea is that you can catch up on the top stories in town on your commute or walking your dog,” said Haefeli.

For now, the focus is on quick updates, but, Hughes added, “We hope to eventually produce some more in-depth shows on issues like affordable housing and development projects.”

Haefeli and Hughes both served on the Town Meeting Communications Study Committee in 2022. Based on that experience, they concluded the town needed a new, reliable source of local news, and they were both involved in the founding of Winchester News.

Haefeli eventually left the Winchester News Group, but Hughes carried the initiative forward and is currently the president of the board of directors.

Winchester Beat is separate from Winchester News, but looks to Winchester News and other sources in town for its content.

The podcast is currently available on Apple, Spotify, WinCam, and YouTube. The pilot episode came out Feb. 4, 2026, and new episodes are generally released weekly on Fridays.

To submit story ideas or event information, contact the podcast at winchesterbeat01890@gmail.com.

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NEWS

Winchester ZBA waives town regulations to move Washington/Swanton project along

Town officials have approved waivers of regulations for a residential/commercial development project at Washington and Swanton streets. The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on March 19 approved the waivers for a 40B project at 278-292 Washington St. and 12 and 16-20 Swanton St. in a special meeting preceding a

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John Bellaire, 22, among youngest townwide winners in Winchester history

He won all eight precincts after a door-to-door campaign that emphasized direct voter contact over institutional backing.

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER
March 25, 2026

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2026 TOWN ELECTIONS

13 YEARS OF DATA, ONE SATURDAY: Takeaways from Winchester's override vote and the races that surrounded it

Winchester News reviewed precinct-level election results from every annual town election since 2014 — 13 years of data covering turnout, ballot questions, Select Board races, School Committee contests and Planning Board results — and compared them against the March 21 preliminary numbers. The 2026 results have not yet been certified by Town

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NEWS

With override rejected, Winchester shifts from campaigning to budget planning

After Winchester voters rejected an $11.5 million Proposition 2 1/2 override on Election Day, March 21, the governing question in town has shifted from persuasion to arithmetic. Select Board member Bill McGonigle, who served on the Yes for Winchester campaign, said the defeat has changed how he approaches

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EVENTS

Network for Social Justice to celebrate 35th anniversary

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: The Network For Social Justice turns 35 this spring! There will be a celebration on Saturday, April 11, from 7-9:30 p.m., at the Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., Winchester. Connect with your local friends and neighbors as

March 25, 2026

EVENTS

Winchester Community Music School presents Jazz Jam Session

The following was submitted by the Winchester Community Music School: On Saturday, March 28, join the community at Winchester Community Music School, 407 Highland Ave., for a Jazz Jam Session, an afternoon of fun, spontaneous jazz playing, beginning at 3 p.m. Instrumentalists and vocalists of all skill levels are

March 25, 2026

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